

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF THE  
PLUM CREEK MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY**

A regular meeting of the Board of The Plum Creek Municipal Authority was held on September 20, 2022, at the Plum Creek Municipal Authority Business Office Building, South Manheim Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.

Board members present at the meeting were Jim Ridderhoff, Jerry Weiss, Corby Lewis, and Ryan Achenbach. Also, in attendance were Joe Zerbe, Nancy Wesner (PCMA Office), Matthew Crump (ARRO Water Services), Patrick "PJ" O'Boyle (ARRO Water Services), Jamie Lorah (SSM Engineering).

Jim Ridderhoff called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

The minutes for the August 2022 meeting, were accepted by motion of Corby Lewis, seconded by Jerry Weiss, carried by all.

The Treasurer's report for August 2022 was reviewed and accepted by motion of Jerry Weiss, seconded by Corby Lewis, carried by all.

Matthew Crump (ARRO Water Services), submitted a written manager's report to the Board prior to the meeting:

- Copies of the following information has been submitted by ARRO Water Services to PA DEP on the authority's behalf and are viewable via PA DEP website via the eDMR.
  - Discharge monitoring report and Discharge monitoring report supplemental report

In water operations, Matthew Crump (ARRO Water Services) reported that:

- August 10: Check PA One Call for conflict and Well #2 piping and status for disconnecting electric meter.
- Booster Station: Normal operations; nothing to report.
- Meter reading will be done the last two weeks of September 2022.

In sewage operations, Matthew Crump (ARRO Water Services) reported that:

- August 4: Took POA Board members and township supervisors on a tour of the wastewater treatment plant and answered any questions
- August 22: Drove pickup truck and followed pump truck to Pik Rite and brought Carl back. Pump was repaired and picked up pump truck on September 1, 2022.
- There were 85 pumps done (44 Holding Tank Pumps, 41 Septic Pumps) for August 2022.
- Approximately 35 pumps in the backlog.

Matthew Crump (ARRO) said he is hoping to have October slated for the hydrant flushing. He is expecting that he will need the whole month of October (instead of the two weeks that were usually given) to get the flushing done. Matthew said he will let Nancy (Office) know a week ahead of time so it can be advertised. Matthew said with the equipment he will be using he will only be able to flush one hydrant at a time whereas last year two hydrants were flushed at a time.

Matthew Crump (ARRO) said at 2356 Stallion Drive the service line inspection failed. On the pictures you can see it is a plastic service line from the curb stop to the home. Plum Creek's Rules and Regulations call for k copper.

Matthew said they were out to mark a pa one call and talked to the homeowner and said they were digging close to the service line and to make sure that their contractor knew that and then the contractor hit their line. They did the repair, the repair held, but it is a plastic service line so he could not pass it. Corby Lewis said his recommendation is to send a letter to Light-Heigel Associates, Code Enforcement Officer, regarding 2356 Stallion Drive.

A complaint from the owner at 900 Wynonah Drive was left on the answering machine at the plant on September 15, 2022, regarding his cracked septic lid. Owner stated that the lid was cracked from the pump that was done in 2015 and the lid was never replaced. Owner does not want PCMA coming out to do the septic inspection and pump unless the Authority replaces the septic tank lid. Nancy (office) said there is nothing documented on the septic inspection certification from 2015 and 2018 and there is nothing in the file that the owner called about the lid. A letter will be sent to the homeowner that the Board reviewed his complaint, but the Authority cannot replace his lid.

Ryan Achenbach said it was brought up at the August meeting about the promises in the old contract from SES that were not in ARRO's contract and in Joe Zerbe's updated review those are still questions that we have. PJ O'Boyle (ARRO) said he sat in meetings and pulled the old SES contract when he received Joe's comments, and he went over these items with his manager. Joe said in the contract ARRO has the right to order the chemicals and supplies. Joe said he does not have a problem with that but his question to the Board was - he thought the chemicals and supplies were bid out at the beginning of the year. Nancy (office) said no - they are not. PJ said they do not order anything for Plum Creek - everything goes through Nancy (office). Corby Lewis asked how long the chemicals are stored and PJ said chlorine, by DEP regulations, is a 30-day supply. Corby said he was thinking we could bid out for the entire year and have it shipped monthly. Matthew Crump said PCMA tends to have different rates of usage because of water leak problems. Joe said there were some promises in the SES agreement that were not in ARRO's. PJ said Jason Coyle (ARRO) said we are not going to operate any facility with the intent to do them harm or the environment harm. Joe said there is a new page on the new draft of the contract, and it is a schedule of hourly rates and charges and that was not part of the original draft. PJ said he thinks every engineer company has a schedule of fees for various positions that they have within and that is not a concern for us because SSM is your engineer. Joe said he would like clarification as to what that page is for. Joe said there are paragraphs about the limitations of liability in paragraph six and seven that he has questions about. Joe said PCMA would need a copy of the certificate of insurance and be named as an additional insured. The ARRO contract will be tabled till the next meeting.

In legal matters, Joe Zerbe said he reviewed the ARRO contract and received an email from Nancy (office) regarding a bankruptcy.

Jim Ridderhoff said he was approached by a party who is interested in buying a vacant lot. The current owner bought the lot in 1975, has never paid the \$72 yearly water bill, lives out of state, and the balance owed on the property is \$9,800. The current owner does not want to pay the whole balance and would the Board be willing to forgive the interest. The Board will look into this matter.

In engineering matters, Jamie Lorah (SSM) said she received an update from Liberty Environmental regarding the oil spill at the plant. On September 2<sup>nd</sup> they came out and core drilled the concrete seam separating the sewage treatment plant and the laboratory area. On September 6<sup>th</sup> they took three soil samples there to determine if the spilled oil had migrated. The soil samples revealed that no oil had gotten through the concrete floor. During that event they hit an electric line

that was buried in the concrete between the laboratory and the sewage treatment area. Nothing harmful happened and it did kick a breaker.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said the plans, from 1972, did not indicate any electrical lines being buried in the concrete. They hired a vacuum excavator to come out and unfortunately it rained over the weekend and the ground water table was up and when they vacuum excavated down about foot outside of the building it immediately filled up with ground water. Because of that they were not able to take the soil samples outside of the building. They collected indoor air samples in the office and some surface sampling. The findings of the stream assessment confirm that there was no release of petroleum to the stream.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said on the EQ tank project – PCMA is paid up to date for two months for the frac tank. There is a meeting coming up on Friday with DEP, in Wilkes-Barre, that we plan to attend with authority members, two supervisors from the townships, and three members from the Property Owners' Association (POA). We will be meeting with both Planning, Scott Novatnak, and the Operations Department (that deals with PCMA's permit and how you operate the plant) Amy Blanco. Jamie said she is hoping to receive further direction on what the Authority may need to do with the EQ tank issues. From the inspection, one of the EQ tanks is in disrepair and the other tank could be repaired. There could be a range of costs for that repair anywhere between \$60,000 to \$80,000 is what was projected, and prevailing wages would be included if it were put out for bid. The second option would be to continue renting the frac tank. In the event the Authority would do that - the frac tank would have to be winterized and the purchase or rental of that equipment to do that would also be expensive. The other option is to continue to use outside haulers which Jamie still feels is a viable option and can be presented at the DEP meeting on Friday.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said Scott Novatnak did confirm that his boss Patel is retiring in October, and he does not know who the program manager will be at that point because it is an appointed office. He still holds very firm to the belief that the entire lake needs to be served. This means vacant properties need to be checked to see if they can have a service placed on them whether it be an approved septic system or centralized sewer. The holding tank properties would also need to be part of that to determine if every one of those can be replaced with an approvable septic which involves at minimum a soil probe. There are soil surveys that can determine whether they can be serviced by a septic system, but the probe helps to confirm that. Jamie said he is saying that they need to have options available to them either that they can convert and if they cannot convert the townships need to provide service to them.

Corby Lewis asked is there any thickness or gallons requirements for the EQ tanks. He has knowledge of a place that does have tanks similar to what is out there except they are all stainless. Jamie Lorah (SSM) said your permit says that you will have 50,000 gallons of equalization storage and that is something to bring up with DEP. They will probably require a permit amendment to put a new tank in and if you are rehabbing an existing tank that is different. Jamie said if you are replacing one then you are talking surveys and all connections that will feed into it, and you are not changing the connections in and out.

Jim Ridderhoff said for the last two months the sewage treatment plant has been closed and we have been using outside haulers very effectively. The backlog of septic's was thirty and today our backlog is less than ten.

Jerry Weiss said we have a problem with the roof and walls - then get rid of it. We know we need a new electrical system, and we could winterize everything that we need to (motors, electrical boxes), etc. Jamie Lorah (SSM) said she did show Scott Novatnak pictures of the plant's corrosion

on the ceilings, the walls, and what we are dealing with regarding the electrical control panels and said it will take a lot of money to bring this plant up to code.

Jerry Weiss said he is against replacing the oil tanks – you could put in a heat pump with mini splits. Jerry said Matthew Crump (SES) said the only area that needs to be heated is the office/lab area and the bathroom. Jim Ridderhoff asked Joe Zerbe if he found out if the people who deliver the fuel, for the oil tanks, have any liability. Joe said he did not but will look into it. Jerry said Nancy (office) should get three quotes for the heat pump with mini splits.

Upon motion by Jerry Weiss, seconded by Corby Lewis, and carried by all, the Board approved to advertise for a pump truck driver, in the surrounding newspapers and on the Indeed website, starting at \$25 an hour using the same job description we used before.

Jim Ridderhoff said Carl told him that when he drove the Mack pump truck back from Pik Rite it had no power – injectors need to be checked.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said if you can find an EQ tank that has the same height and dimensions as the existing tank that is already there – you could replace in kind. It could be stainless or coated galvanized tank. The dimensions are ten foot in diameter, thirty-two foot long, 25,000 gallons.

Upon motion by Jerry Weiss, seconded by Corby Lewis, and carried by all, the Board suspended the regular meeting at 8:20 p.m. and convened in Executive Session to discuss employee matters.

Upon motion by Jerry Weiss, seconded by Jim Ridderhoff, and carried by all, the Board reconvened at 8:30 p.m. in regular session. The Board discussed amending the advertising of the pump truck driver ad and a pay raise for two employees.

Upon motion by Jerry Weiss, seconded by Corby Lewis, and carried by all, the Board amended the advertising motion to remove the \$25 per hour wording in the pump truck driver ad and instead say in the ad wage is based upon experience.

Upon motion by Jim Ridderhoff, seconded by Jerry Weiss, and carried by all, the Board is giving a fifty cent raise to Nancy (office) and Marikate (office) for having accepted the scheduling of the sewage pumps.

There being no further business, Jerry Weiss motioned for adjournment, Jim Ridderhoff seconded the motion, carried by all. Jim Ridderhoff adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Meeting minutes were taken, prepared, and submitted by Nancy Wesner.